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ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Sanitary Inspector



FOR THE YEAR 1950

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ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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of the

Medical Officer of Health

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Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1950

ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health & General Purposes Committee.

January to May, 1950.

Chairman:

Councillor W. C. DAVIS, J.P., M.M.

Vice-Chairman:

Major W. H. TINDALL.

Councillor A. W. ARTHURTON, M.Inst.T.
 " T. BARTLETT.
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 " Dr. GLADYS H. BLISS.
 " E. R. BOWYER, J.P.
 " Mrs. E. M. COLES.
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 " E. L. COLSTON, C.C.
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 " J. R. V. DUTTON.
 " Miss M. M. GALLALLY.
 " Miss M. N. GINN.
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 " Mrs. M. HORNIBROOK, M.A.
 " F. G. HUTT.
 " Mrs. G. A. JENNERY.
 " W. JONES.
 " K. D. LEWIS.
 " Major F. R. LAW, T.D., J.P., C.C.
 " Mrs. C. M. T. MARTINEAU.
 " Major L. A. N. MORRIS.
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 " Lt.-Col. C. T. POLLARD, O.B.E.
 " H. G. POOLE.
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 " H. W. ROWLAND.
 " Vice-Admiral R. SHELLEY, C.B., C.B.E., C.C.
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 " Major L. CORBET SODEN, M.C.
 " Mrs. E. R. TULLIS.
 " Rev. C. W. WARNER.
 " T. R. WATSON.
 " I. A. YOUNG.

ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health & General Purposes Committee.

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Vice-Chairman:

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„ Rev. C. W. WARNER.
„ T. R. WATSON.
„ Lt.-Col. P. G. WRIGHT, T.D.
„ I. A. YOUNG.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

W. L. BELL, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

A. W. G. CORNER (Cert. R.S.I.), M.S.I.A.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:

A. H. V. MARSDEN, M.S.I.A.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

M. HODGKINS, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

J. FORREST, M.R.San.I.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Rodent Officer:

J. R. SNELL.

General Assistants:

H. W. FRY.

R. A. WARD (Temporary).

Secretary to Medical Officer of Health:

Miss B. L. CAMPBELL.

Shorthand-Typist:

Miss A. NEWSTEAD.

Junior Clerk:

Mr. D. PLATT (Resigned).

Miss P. MATTHEWS.

ETON RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH For the Year 1950

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and General Purposes Committee:

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year 1950. This report deals with the administration of the department during the period of office of my predecessor, Dr. Bell, who resigned on 31st May, 1951, before he had the opportunity of compiling his own report. I have, therefore, confined myself mainly to recording the relevant statistics and events of the year with limitation of particular comment.

The population fluctuates slightly from year to year, but when studied over a period of several years it shows a definite increase. It is recorded this year as 41,400, while in 1945 it was 38,150. The highest figure since 1945 was in 1948, when the Registrar General's estimate was 42,370. The increase this year is 300, while the natural increase, that is births minus deaths, is 234. The number of immigrants therefore was 66.

The total number of live births was 649, compared with 684 the previous year and 681 in 1948. The birth rate per 1,000 population is the lowest since 1942, but is only very slightly below the national rate, which also is the lowest figure recorded for 9 years.

The table of death rates in the following report will show that, apart from 1944, the death rate per 1,000 population in the District has been consistently below the rate for England and Wales since 1941. The crude death rate was 10.0 per 1,000 of the estimated mid-year home population, and the corrected death rate, which takes into account the age and sex of the population, was 10.0.

Deaths from Tuberculosis were 6 compared with 10 in 1949 and the total fresh notifications also dropped from 35 in 1949 to 27 this year.

There have been no epidemics during the year and the total notifications of infectious disease has been low. Measles, which was the most prevalent infectious disease during the year, dropped to 155 cases, and this is the lowest recorded figure for this disease in the District since 1944.

As will be seen in the report, a great deal of work has been done in the supervision of food supplies for human consumption, a task of utmost importance. The total weight of "home killed meat" and offal condemned was 12,082 lbs., while visits to butchers' shops numbered 183 and to slaughterhouses 170. 68 samples of milk and 65 samples of ice cream were sent for laboratory test.

One of the greatest and ever-increasing problems of the District is the presence of moveable dwellings, and consequently a survey of the whole position was undertaken. Some comments on this subject are included.

During my very short period of office to date it has been a pleasure to note the good spirit of this department, and the cordial relations which exist between this and the other departments of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. M. HOBBIN,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	35,500 acres
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	41,400
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1950 according to Rate Books	11,586
Rateable Value, 1.4.50	£402,748
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,598/19/1

TABLE I

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Total	649	Male	353	Female	296
Legitimate	619	Male	336	Female	283
Illegitimate	30	Male	17	Female	13
Birth Rate per 1,000 population					15.6
National Rate					15.8

Still Births

Total	19	Male	9	Female	10
Legitimate	19	Male	9	Female	10
Illegitimate	—	Male	—	Female	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population					0.45
National Rate					0.37

Birth Rates per 1,000 population and Percentage of Illegitimate Births

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
England & Wales	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8
Eton Rural District	13.9	15.4	17.35	18.6	17.2	18.06	19.4	16.07	16.64	15.67
Percentage of Illegitimate Births to Total Births	6.87	3.80	6.09	5.72	8.04	8.51	6.70	6.90	5.84	4.62

Deaths

Total	.....	415	Male	212	Female	203
Death Rate per 1,000 population	.....		.....		.....	10.0
National Rate	.....		.....		.....	11.6
Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth: -						
(a) From Sepsis	.....		.....		.....	Nil
(b) From other causes	.....		.....		.....	Nil

Death Rates from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 Total Births

(a) From Sepsis	.....	Nil	National Rate	.....	Nil
(b) From other causes	.....	Nil	National Rate	.....	Nil

Deaths of Infants under One Year of age

Total	.....	14	Male	12	Female	2
Legitimate	.....	11	Male	9	Female	2
Illegitimate	.....	3	Male	3	Female	—

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	.....		.....		.....	21.6
National Rate	29.8

Deaths from Measles (all ages)

Male	Nil	Female	Nil	Total	Nil
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Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)

Male	Nil	Female	Nil	Total	Nil
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Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under 2)

Male	2	Female	Nil	Total	2
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Death Rates per 1,000 population

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
England & Wales	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0	10.8	11.7	11.6
Eton Rural District	10.6	10.6	10.6	11.9	10.8	10.1	10.4	9.9	10.2	10.0

Death Rates per 1,000 population from Principal Causes

T.B. Respiratory (6) 0.14	Acute Poliomyelitis (1) 0.02	Malignant Diseases of all types (84) 2.02	Diseases of the Heart—all types (118) 2.85
Pneumonia (15) 0.36	Bronchitis (19) 0.45	Suicide (5) 0.12	Diabetes (5) 0.12

TABLE II

CAUSES OF DEATH in the Eton Rural District during 1950

				Male	Female	Total
			All Causes	212	203	415
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	.....	.....	5	1	6
2.	Tuberculosis, other	.....	.....	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	.....	.....	1	1	2
4.	Diphtheria	.....	.....	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	.....	.....	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	.....	.....	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	.....	.....	1	—	1
8.	Measles	.....	.....	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	.....	.....	2	—	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	.....	.....	7	7	14
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.....	.....	8	5	13
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	.....	.....	—	5	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.....	.....	—	5	5
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.....	.....	23	24	47
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	.....	.....	1	2	3
16.	Diabetes	.....	.....	1	4	5
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	.....	.....	21	18	39
18.	Coronary disease, angina	.....	.....	33	17	50
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	.....	.....	8	10	18
20.	Other heart disease	.....	.....	20	48	68
21.	Other circulatory disease	.....	.....	5	13	18
22.	Influenza	.....	.....	—	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	.....	.....	6	9	15
24.	Bronchitis	.....	.....	12	7	19
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	.....	.....	4	1	5
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.....	.....	3	2	5
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.....	.....	3	—	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	.....	.....	3	1	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	.....	.....	4	—	4
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	.....	.....	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	.....	.....	3	—	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	.....	21	15	36
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	.....	.....	10	—	10
34.	All other accidents	.....	.....	6	3	9
35.	Suicide	.....	.....	1	4	5
36.	Homicide and operations of war	.....	.....	—	—	—

Infant Mortality

All infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births.

Year	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944
Eton Rural District	21.6	33.6	29.3	33.5	45.4	24.3	35.4
England & Wales	29.8	32.0	34.0	41.0	43.0	46.0	46.0

After correction for transfers there were a total of 14 deaths of infants under 1 year of age (12 males and 2 females).

The death rate of infants under 1 year has varied considerably in this district from year to year, and when viewed over a period of seven years, as shown in the table above, it will be seen that twice during that period viz. 1946 and 1949 the rate has been above the National rate. Unlike the National rate it has not shown a steady fall but the figure this year recorded at 21.6 is the best of the seven year period and compares very favourably with the National rate of 29.8.

The infant mortality is a most important index in Public Health work and generally regarded by statisticians as the most sensitive index of social welfare and sanitary improvements which we possess. The mortality is generally highest in the first week of life and about 25% of the total deaths usually occur at this time. The period of seven years quoted above is scarcely long enough to judge the real trend in a matter of this kind, and I therefore mention that fifty years ago in 1901 the infant mortality rate for England and Wales was 151 per 1,000 births.

The causes of death and ages at death in the case of the 14 infants were recorded as follows: —

<i>Number.</i>	<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Age.</i>
1.	Marasmus.	3 months.
	Secondary Gastro-enteritis.	
2.	Haematemesis and Melaena.	3 months.
	Pyloric stenosis.	
3.	Atelectasis.	2 weeks.
4.	Broncho-pneumonia.	6 months.
	Congenital heart disease.	
5.	Atelectasis.	2 days.
6.	Gastro-enteritis.	11 months.
7.	Atelectasis.	1 week.
8.	Broncho-pneumonia.	3 weeks.
9.	Erythroblastosis Foetalis.	3 days.
10.	Congenital heart disease.	7 days.
11.	Prematurity.	3 days.
12.	Prematurity.	3 hours.
13.	Atelectasis.	1 day.
14.	Broncho-pneumonia.	2 days.

TUBERCULOSIS

Number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1950: —

Pulmonary		Total	Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Total
Male	Female		Male	Female		
193	173	366	60	47	107	473

Fresh notifications during the year: -

			Total	Male	Female
Pulmonary T.B. ....	.....	.....	24	18	6
Non-Pulmonary T.B. ....	.....	.....	3	2	1

Laboratory Specimens Examined

Ear Swabs ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Throat Swabs Diphtheria ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Throat Swabs Haemolytic Streps ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	83
Nasal Swabs ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	78
Stool Specimens ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Sputum Specimens ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Urine Specimens ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Blood (Widal Test) ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Wassermann Reaction ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

All specimens are examined at the Laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Reading and Oxford.

Staff Examinations (Superannuation, etc.)

Number examined	11
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SECTION II

Notification of Infectious Diseases

Year	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941
Scarlet Fever	39	54	33	37	59	59	103	69	52	48
Whooping Cough	58	74	157	69	77	36	153	71	55	192
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	3	6*	8*	8*	1*	5*	—	1*	2*	18*
Acute Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	155	225	450	297	373	426	70	592	119	515
Diphtheria	—	—	1	2	—	4	4	4	3	7
Acute Pneumonia	10	7	19	8	26	10	23	30	4	15
Dysentery	17	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	4
Erysipelas	2	3	5	2	5	4	4	5	14	6
Meningococcal Infections	2	—	6	5	—	4	3	1	6	6
Food Poisoning	4	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	2	4	2	2	25	15	26	16	9

* Prior to 1950 cases of Poliomyelitis were not notified as paralytic or non-paralytic.

Infectious Diseases

Scarlet Fever

Once again it can be reported that this disease has remained inconspicuous, the number of cases recorded for the year being 39 compared with 54 in 1949. The cases notified were sporadic and did not represent an outbreak. In recent years the disease has shown a great decline in virulence and deaths from this cause are now extremely rare. The complications also which used to prolong the period of hospitalization are now so effectively controlled by Penicillin and the Sulphonamide drugs that they seldom constitute a feature of the disease. The change in the nature of the disease itself from the once severe form which ranked it as one of the major infectious diseases to the present mild form, may be due to an alteration in the character or virulence of the causal organism or an increase in the natural immunity of the population.

The question as to whether Scarlet Fever in its present mild form requires hospital treatment, is one which is being asked more and more frequently by medical men. It is a fact that the tendency in

Isolation Hospitals to-day is to do away with special Scarlet Fever wards, and just like the old Diphtheria wards they may soon become a thing of the past.

We know that the haemolytic streptococcus of Lancefields Group A is responsible for Scarlet Fever, and we also know that the same organism causes acute Tonsillitis which is infectious but not accompanied by a rash yet such cases of acute Tonsillitis are not classified as a notifiable disease, and are not admitted to hospital. We must however, be alive to the possibility that the present mild form of the disease may again alter in character and become a virulent major infection, and we cannot therefore relax our present measures of control.

Whooping Cough

The number of cases notified has varied only slightly from the previous year and stands at little more than one third the number recorded for 1948. The disease exhibits periodical epidemic prevalence approximately every alternate year, but localised outbreaks may occur and contiguous districts may not become involved until a later date or may escape.

This disease is one which pre-eminently affects infants under one year old and very young children. Although lightly regarded by the public it is perhaps the most serious of the acute specific infections of children at the present time. The mortality rate is high and there is also a high mortality from its complications.

It has been the practice to offer to immunise children against Whooping Cough should the parents so desire and can be carried out either in conjunction with Diphtheria immunisation at Welfare Centres or separately. It is always explained that immunisation against Whooping Cough does not afford the same measure of protection as immunisation against Diphtheria. Very little propaganda is therefore practised as regards Whooping Cough immunisation and it is largely a matter of choice for the parents.

Diphtheria

No cases have been reported during the year and none the previous year. When reviewed over a period of 10 years the numbers have been gradually diminishing and no notification for two successive years constitutes a record which it is our desire to maintain. This is a triumph of the Diphtheria immunisation campaign and results in an enormous saving of child illness, parental anxiety, hospital beds and of life.

Prior to the nation wide campaign against Diphtheria which began in 1941-1942 it was one of the greatest scourges of childhood accounting for 3,000 deaths annually in England and Wales. The position

to-day is vastly different but with the comparative disappearance of the disease there has come a tendency to forget its evils. It is a preventable disease and there is no room for any relaxation of the immunisation campaign which aims at 100% immunisation of infants before one year of age. For this purpose parents are persuaded to take their children to child Welfare Centres where the service is provided or to make arrangements with their private doctors.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Three paralytic and seven non-paralytic cases were notified. This represents a rise of four on the previous year. Prior to 1950 no distinction was made between paralytic and non-paralytic cases which were all recorded under the heading of Poliomyelitis. Compared with some parts of the country these figures are very low but are still a matter of concern in that the method of spread of this disease is not thoroughly understood, and we are left with a feeling of uncertainty and insecurity as to what may happen from week to week. A considerable amount of information is still collected on each individual case which arises for research purposes.

Food Poisoning and Dysentery

There were 17 cases of Dysentery notified which is the highest for 10 years.

Only 4 cases of Food Poisoning occurred, compared with 33 in 1949. Although this area has escaped any outbreak there has however, been a marked increase throughout the country reaching epidemic scale in many areas. It should be noted that improved administrative measures and the increased use of diagnostic help from the Public Health Laboratory Service have increased the number of cases reported. Apart from this apparent increase there has been a real national increase and for this reason we must be constantly vigilant of conditions in our area which may give rise to similar outbreaks irrespective of the fact that we have escaped with so few cases.

One of the principal causes of these outbreaks is the retention overnight and reheating of meat dishes cooked the day before they are to be eaten in consequence of the necessity for economy in using rationed meat supplies. Another source of danger is the increase in communal feeding in schools and factory canteens, etc., where the practice is to cook the meat or gravy in large containers the day before they are to be eaten, for the large containers cool slowly and may for many hours maintain a temperature favourable to the rapid multiplication of bacteria which the reheating temperature is too low to kill.

The greatest cause of all however, it should be remembered, is the lack of personal hygiene in some form or another.

Immunisation

The numbers completed during the year are as follows: —

	<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>5 years & over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Diphtheria	163	30	193
Diphtheria & Whooping Cough	454	20	474
Whooping Cough	1	8	9
Boosters	4	639	643

Isolation Hospital

The nearest Isolation Hospital and the one to which most of the cases from this District are admitted is situated at Maidenhead. Cases from the east side of the District are nearer to the Uxbridge and South Ealing Isolation Hospitals where they are normally admitted, but occasionally it happens that beds are not available at any of these hospitals and in that instance Aylesbury Isolation Hospital is used. Since 1948 all hospital arrangements have been made by the Regional Hospital Boards and subsequent to their taking over control of the hospitals they closed down two Isolation Hospitals in the Southern half of Bucks County.

It may be recalled that this District originally had its own Isolation Hospital which was built and controlled by the Eton Joint Hospital Board. This hospital was situated at Cippenham and was ideally sited and specially built as an Isolation Hospital. It had a total of 62 beds, 10 of which were in a new cubicle block completed early in 1936. The hospital was well equipped and up to date in every respect with a good modern operating theatre and steam sterilization apparatus installed in all wards, an important feature which does not exist in many of the small Isolation Hospitals at present in use. Early in 1949 this hospital was closed and transformed into living accommodation for nursing staff undergoing training at the Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow.

Hospital Admissions

Disease	No. of Cases	Hospital	Average No. of days	Result
Poliomyelitis	8	Maidenhead Isolation	15	Discharged
„	1	Uxbridge Isolation	20	„
„	1	South Ealing Isolation	24	„
Scarlet Fever	3	Aylesbury Isolation	22	„
„ „	15	Maidenhead Isolation	14	„
Meningitis	1	Canadian Red Cross, Taplow	29	„
Encephalitis	1	Maidenhead Isolation	1	Died

Investigations on behalf of the Hospital's Bed Bureau

It has been the custom for the Hospital Bed Bureau of the Windsor Group to refer to the Medical Officer of Health for investigation cases on the waiting list for admission to Part 3 accommodation. These are usually old people with chronic ailments but without any acute condition necessitating their immediate admission to acute wards. Frequently these people have managed to get along at home until some domestic situation arises altering the circumstances and leaving them without adequate attention.

Originally the waiting list was long and it was a matter of assessing the conditions and giving priority to those most in need, and in previous years many cases were referred.

The numbers during 1950 have fallen off and only three cases have been investigated.

These three were aged 63, 80 and 85, and the nature of their complaints was Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, Myocarditis, Cerebral Arterio Sclerosis and incontinence. Suitable priority was recommended in support of requests from their private doctors.

Tables showing the comparison of ages and sexes of notifications of Measles, Scarlet Fever, and Whooping Cough: —

MEASLES

Age	Male	Female	Total
0 —	1	1	2
1 —	8	6	14
2 —	5	7	12
3 —	9	9	18
4 —	5	10	15
5 —	36	50	86
10 —	1	2	3
15 —	0	1	1
20 —	0	0	0
30 +	1	1	2

SCARLET FEVER

Age	Male	Female	Total
0 —	0	0	0
1 —	0	0	0
2 —	0	1	1
3 —	6	1	7
4 —	4	0	4
5 —	8	7	15
10 —	4	4	8
15 —	0	1	1
20 —	0	1	1
30 +	1	1	2

WHOOPING COUGH

Age	Male	Female	Total
0 —	2	0	2
1 —	0	2	2
2 —	2	0	2
3 —	4	3	7
4 —	3	2	5
5 —	14	24	38
10 —	2	0	2
15 —	0	0	0
20 —	0	0	0
30 —	0	0	0
Unknown	1	0	1

SECTION III

Water

The four principal water undertakings providing a piped supply to the district are (a) the Borough of Slough, (b) the Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co. (incorporated) (c) Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Waterworks Co. Ltd., (d) Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. There are in addition two other undertakings viz. The South West Suburban Co., and the Marlow Water Co., but these supply only a few properties on the fringe of the District. During the year a certain number of extensions to mains have been completed and these are tabulated below together with comments on the purification and quality of the water: —

Borough of Slough

Mains laid.

Plough Lane, Wexham. 44yds. x 3in. main.

Elizabeth Way, Stoke Poges. 155yds. x 3in. main.

57 new supplies have been provided to consumers in the Area.

The supply is sufficient in quantity and weekly laboratory reports show that it is bacteriologically of high quality and suitable for domestic use. The raw water is satisfactory and chlorination is carried out purely as a precautionary measure.

Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co. (incorporated).

Extensions of mains at "Dalside," Gerrards Cross. The water is of high quality and the supply is ample. It is being purified by chlorination and dechlorination.

Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Waterworks Co. Ltd.

Mains laid.

Nashdom Lane, Burnham. 323yds. x 3in. main.

Station Road, Taplow. 438yds. x 4in. main.

Templewood Lane, Farnham Common. 58yds. x 3in. main.

Cages Wood, Farnham Common. 138yds. x 3in. main.

Taplow Paper Mill. 43yds. x 6in. main.

During 1950 six samples were sent for chemical analysis and thirty samples for bacteriological. The reports were satisfactory and the quantity sufficient.

The bulk of the supply is pumped from Taplow, where it is chlorinated, and the balance from Burnham is superchlorinated.

Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co.

Mains extensions.

Hay Mill Lane, Fulmer. 236yds. x 3in. main.

Bangors Road, Iver. 64yds. x 2in. main.

Bangors Road, Iver. 242yds. x 3in. main.

Bangors Road, Iver. 303yds. x 4in. main.

Langley Road, Iver, and Billet Lane, Wexham. 472yds. x 3in. main.

Accommodation Road, off Thorney Lane, Iver. 152yds. x 4in. main.

Pinewood Green, Iver. 61yds. x 4in. main.

Knighton Way Lane, New Denham. 57yds. x 4in. main.

Housing Site, Hedgerley. 248yds. x 3in. main.

Housing Site, Hedgerley. 577yds. x 4in. main.

Moat Farm, Hedgerley. 248yds. x 3 in. main.

Housing Site, Hedgerley. 109yds. x 2in. main.

Thorney Lane, Iver. 1054yds. x 12in. main.

The number of domestic supplies afforded at 31st December, 1950, was 4,259.

The water is being regularly analysed and is perfectly satisfactory and suitable in all respects for domestic use. It is being purified by chlorination and the residual chlorine at West Drayton and Iver Pumping Stations before being passed into supply is 0.25 parts per million.

The following laboratory report relates to a sample taken from the Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co. (incorporated): -

REPORT (dated 23.1.50)

AMERSHAM, BEACONSFIELD & DISTRICT WATER
COMPANY.

(Chemical Results in parts per million)

Appearance	Clear and bright
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Nil
Colour (Hazen)	Nil
Odour	Slightly chlorinous
Reaction pH	7.0
Free Carbon Dioxide	34
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	495
Total Solids, dried at 180°C.	330
Chlorine in Chlorides	15
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	240
Hardness—Total 270—	
Carbonate (Temporary)	240
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	30
Nitrogen in Nitrates	4.2
Nitrogen in Nitrites	Less than 0.01
Free Ammonia	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	0.05
Residue Chlorine	0.35
Metals	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies develop- ing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C
	0	0
	3 days at 20°C	0

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. coli.	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of very satisfactory bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM WATER UNDERTAKINGS

(1) Parish	(2) Water Undertaker	(3) Bacteriological Samples		(4) Chemical Samples		(5) Remarks
		Date	Result	Date	Result	
WRAYSBURY	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co.....	29-3-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*
DATCHET	Slough Borough Water Department	29-3-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*
GERRARDS CROSS	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co.	20-4-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*
DORNEY	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co.	20-4-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*
WRAYSBURY	South West Suburban Water Co.	29-6-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*
WRAYSBURY	South West Suburban Water Co.	29-6-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*
TAPLOW	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co.	10-7-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*
GERRARDS CROSS	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co.	17-7-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*
STOKE POGES	Slough Borough Water Department	17-7-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*
BURNHAM	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co.	17-7-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*
TAPLOW	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co.	9-10-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*
DATCHET	Slough Borough Water Department	9-10-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*
IVER	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co.....	9-10-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*
GERRARDS CROSS	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co.	12-10-50	Satisfactory	—	—	*

* Submitted to Public Health Laboratory Service, Reading.

SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM SWIMMING POOLS & BATHING PLACES

(1) Name of Swimming Pool or Bathing Place	(2) Controlled by	(3) Bacteriological Samples		(4) Chemical Samples		(5) Remarks
		Date	Result	Date	Result	
Burnham Beeches Swimming Pool (Outlet)	Privately owned	5-6-50	Satisfactory	—	—	—
Burnham Beeches Swimming Pool (Inlet)	Privately owned	5-6-50	Satisfactory	—	—	—
Burnham Beeches Swimming Pool (Outlet)	Privately owned	7-8-50	Satisfactory	—	—	†
Burnham Beeches Swimming Pool (Inlet)	Privately owned	7-8-50	Satisfactory	—	—	†
Total samples collected	4	—	—	—	—	—

† These samples were taken during the afternoon August Bank Holiday Monday.

Where premises are served by other than main supply, e.g. tube well, etc., 87 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, 58 being satisfactory, 29 doubtful or unsatisfactory; 6 submitted for chemical examination, of these 5 proved satisfactory, the other unsatisfactory.

As regards the unsatisfactory or doubtful samples, a number were repeat samples and the preliminary precautionary warnings were given pending the improvement of or the provision of main supplies.

In addition 5 samples of water were taken from a lake supply. After submission for bacteriological examination the results were: 1 satisfactory, 4 unsatisfactory, also 1 bacteriological and 1 chemical sample were taken from an underground reservoir which serves certain film studios in the district, both samples on examination were satisfactory.

Swimming Pools

Burnham Beeches Bath under private ownership is still the only open-air pool in the Rural District of which the public may take advantage.

The method used to preserve the purity of the water is continuous filtration and chlorination.

Samples of the bath water taken during the summer season and submitted for bacteriological examination, continue to be satisfactory.

GENERAL SANITATION

As this is a Rural District with 58% of the houses still drained to cesspools one of the major problems is naturally the regular emptying and disposal of cesspool contents. If the Council's scheme for the provision of sewers throughout the area could be implemented this problem with all the attendant difficulties of disposal would gradually disappear. On the other hand in the absence of these plans being put into effect one must anticipate that the number of cesspools will increase with the construction of new houses or improvements to premises where pail closets are in use, and the cesspool problem will be all the greater. Unfortunately I have to report that little effective progress has been made during the year with the provision of main drainage.

The policy of emptying not more often than once per month has been maintained as a minimum but in many cases a much longer interval has proved to be adequate. This work is carried out by the Public Cleansing Officer, and the Public Health Department intervene to deal with nuisances which may arise. During the year the volume of this work showed a considerable increase and an additional emptying machine had to be brought into use. The disposal of contents has presented many problems and the facilities for this are restricted.

Pail closets are emptied weekly and unfortunately the number of these is on the increase largely due to the increasing number of permanent caravan residents. At the end of the year approximately 650 pail closets were being emptied, a situation which must be regarded with great apprehension from the Public Health point of view.

There are five separate sewage works in operation in areas on the main drainage, viz. Burnham, Gerrards Cross, Denham Green, Iver North, Iver South, and in addition seven small works attached to housing estates, and a number of pumping stations. The future of these may have to be reviewed in connection with the Council's schemes for development.

THE SANITATION OF SCHOOLS

From the point of view of environment hygiene the local Sanitary Authority have responsibilities conferred under various sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, as regards the sanitary conditions existing at School buildings within their area, whereas the County Council as Local Education Authority have the duty under the Education Act, 1944, and subsequent Regulations to secure that the premises of every School maintained by them conform to standards prescribed for Schools of the description to which the School belongs. On several occasions during the past few years the sanitary circumstances prevailing at many of the Schools in the area have been found to be highly unsatisfactory, and consequently the matter has been taken up with the Local Education Authority. Negotiations on this have been very protracted but during 1950 culminated in several Meetings between the School Managers and representatives of the Authorities concerned. It is pointed out that the Local Education Authority have been greatly handicapped in that they have been unable to carry out any major sanitary improvements without the sanction of the Ministry of Education and considerable delay has therefore ensued.

A number of the Schools concerned were provided only with pail closets, the contents of which were exposed to flies, giving rise to all the associated risks, as well as being in itself offensive. In other cases water closets were foul and not emptying when flushed, due to inadequate cesspool accommodation; sanitary conveniences were badly ventilated and constructed giving rise to surface flooding, and in some instances there was access to the sanitary conveniences and misuse by sections of the public from the roadway due to inadequate fencing, and in others no separate sanitary arrangements for staff.

In deciding the most expedient and most economical method of rectifying these defects, regard has to be paid to the Council's plans impending for the provision of main sewerage throughout the District. It would obviously be unwise to incur the heavy cost of extensive improvements of a permanent nature where the work of installing main

drainage is likely to commence in the near future. Where necessary, however, certificates have been issued to the effect that the existing sanitary arrangements were a menace to health and suitable advice given as to the action required.

During the year these recommendations have been fully considered by representatives of the County Education Committee and this Council and agreement reached for full collaboration between the Health Department of this Council and the County Architect.

This arrangement should ensure that the progress being made will regularly be reviewed.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Originally this was under control of the Public Health Department, but it is now carried out by the Public Cleansing Department, which was established as a separate Department in 1943.

One of the problems which had to be solved during the year was the provision of bins for the proper storage of refuse, as a number of premises were found always to be without bins, thereby causing a nuisance and hampering the efficient collection. After careful consideration it was decided to operate a compulsory hire scheme—giving owners the opportunity of supplying if they wished, and this system appears to have been quite satisfactory.

During the year weekly collections were operated in all Parishes.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at various points throughout the District, four main tips in all, although the amount of control has varied from time to time, dependent upon the shortage of man-power and the availability of suitable covering material. On the whole these tips have been well maintained and have not caused any trouble. In addition to these main tips there are also some private tips which do not concern the Public Cleansing Department, but are visited from time to time by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Number of Disinfections and Disinfestations for 1950.

- (a) 13 Disinfections of Premises.
11 Scarlet Fever. 2 Tuberculosis.
- (b) Disinfection of Bedding.
2 loads (Tuberculosis).
- (c) Disinfestation of Premises.
Bugs. 10 premises.

Subsequent to the closing down of the Cippenham Isolation Hospital in January 1949, an arrangement was come to with the Windsor Group Hospital Management Committee for the continuation

of facilities which previously existed for the use of the steam disinfecter on these premises. This arrangement is still in operation and is convenient and satisfactory. In the event of these facilities being terminated, the Council will be faced with the alternative of providing themselves with a disinfecter or taking the loads of bedding outside the district to be done elsewhere.

At present the necessary transport for bedding, etc., is provided by the Public Cleansing Department of our Council.

All disinfections which are regarded as part of the Public Health Service are carried out free of charge to the public and at the Council's expense.

Requests for disinfection of bedding, etc., outside this service are received from time to time, in which case a charge is made or the party have to make their own arrangements.

Cleansing Station

There is at present no cleansing station in the Council's area for the cleansing of persons infested with vermin or scabies. Again this was one of the facilities afforded by the Cippenham Isolation Hospital before its closure and since then no suitable alternative has been devised. Fortunately the demand for this service is very rare and especially so since the introduction of DDT preparations and new medicaments for the treatment of scabies. The demand still exists amongst school children and the only satisfactory method of eradicating this complaint is by treating the whole family simultaneously and not the children alone. Theoretically it should be possible to carry this out in the home under guidance and general supervision but in practice the results do not compare favourably with those obtained when the whole family was dealt with at a cleansing station. Lack of co-operation and the difficulties of personal supervision are no doubt the major reasons for failure. Although new methods of treatment do not emphasise the necessity for a hot bath as a preliminary or in conjunction with treatment, many medical authorities still insist that this is essential, and as many houses have no bathing facilities, this may be regarded as an additional cause in cases of failure with home treatment.

The number of school children recorded as being verminous during 1950 was 9 and 1 case of scabies, but it will be appreciated that these cases were discovered among a very small proportion of the child population of the district who happened to fall in the age group for routine examination at school and does not represent the total incidence.

SECTION IV

THE ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL ACT, 1950

One of the most important events of the year was the passing and coming into operation of this Act which forms one of the milestones in the history of the Local Government of the District.

Much of the Act has a direct bearing on Public Health matters, and should facilitate the work of Sanitary Inspectors and in general secure better and healthier conditions of living. The various sections dealing with sewerage and drainage also should be valuable in planning future developments. The provision for food storage accommodation in new houses, and the registration of hawkers of food and their premises, marks a definite advance in the field of food hygiene, a subject which has occupied a good deal of attention in recent years.

Section 29 is of particular interest from the Medical point of view for here the Council is given power to request that any person found to be suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract and in an infectious state, and employed within the district in the cooking, preparation or handling of food intended for human consumption by persons other than himself or his own household, should stop his employment, if his continuance in such employment is regarded by the Medical Officer as detrimental to the public health.

The section dealing with flood precautions is peculiar to this district and will help to alleviate hardship should our unfortunate experience of recent years be repeated.

Byelaws

On the 1st May, 1950, Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, by the Council for securing the observation of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air of food intended for human consumption, came into operation.

The Byelaws are comprehensive and cover almost every conceivable aspect of food hygiene not already adequately covered by existing legislation, e.g. the interpretation of the word "food" excludes milk, drugs and water. It is important to note the emphasis which has been laid not only on the cleanliness of containers, utensils, crockery, cutlery, counters, slabs, apparatus and fittings, but in many instances the state of repair, and the nature of the material from which certain items of equipment are made. The desirability of having all surfaces with which food is liable to come into contact made of a material which will prevent absorption, is self-evident. The question of the provision of adequate lighting to enable the Byelaws to be complied with has also been included.

It is of particular medical interest to note that no person knowingly suffering from or knowingly being a carrier of any disease shall handle, wrap or deliver any food so as to give rise to any risk of the spread of the disease. This is not unlike Section 29 of the Eton Rural District Council Act, 1950, which makes a similar provision in respect of Tuberculosis only.

These Byelaws will be a great asset to the Sanitary Inspectors in their routine duties and cannot fail in time to raise the standard of food cleanliness and reduce the incidence of food borne diseases.

CASES DEALT WITH UNDER
THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

	<i>Persons</i>
(a) Section 47. Removed to Hospital	2*
* One person subsequently certified insane, and in respect of one other person three further Orders were obtained at the expiration of the preceding Order. In addition, one other person was removed to hospital voluntarily, following action by the Medical Officer of Health.	
(b) Section 50. Burials by the Local Authority	1
One person found drowned and whose identity was not established.	

SECTION V
APPLICATIONS FOR REHOUSING ON MEDICAL GROUNDS

From time to time requests are received asking the support of this Department in applications already submitted for rehousing on medical grounds. Also cases are referred by the Housing Manager to the Health Department for investigation when medical reasons are involved and priority is being sought on that account. The medical history of such cases is investigated and a report issued to the Housing Manager with the consent of the individual concerned. Normally, a visit is paid to the home address of the applicant by the Medical Officer or Sanitary Inspector provided the address is within the rural district, but applications are also received from addresses within the area of other Councils, in which cases a report on the sanitary and relevant medical circumstances is required from the Health Department of the Council concerned.

The medical reasons for which priority is sought are varied, but the commonest is Tuberculosis.

During the year the number of cases investigated within the district was 12 and 1 from the area of other Councils.

SECTION VI

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

Centre	Location	Session	Session with Medical Officer
Burnham	Village Hall Gore Road	1st & 3rd Tuesday	1st Tuesday
Datchet	Working Men's Club	2nd & 4th Wednesday	2nd & 4th Wednesday
Denham	Village Hall	2nd & 4th Wednesday	2nd Wednesday
Farnham Royal	Village Hall	Weekly Thursday Diph. Imm. 3rd Tuesday at 9.45 a.m.	2nd & 4th Thursday
Gerrards Cross	British Legion Hall	1st & 3rd Friday	3rd Friday
Hedgerley	Memorial Hall	1st & 3rd Wednesday	3rd Wednesday
Horton	Champney Hall	1st & 3rd Wednesday	1st Wednesday
Iver	Village Hall	3rd Wednesday	3rd Wednesday
Iver Heath	Village Hall	2nd & 4th Wednesday	2nd Wednesday
New Denham	St. Francis Hall	1st & 3rd Wednesday	1st Wednesday
Richings Park	Church Room	2nd & 4th Monday	2nd Monday
Stoke Poges	Village Hall	2nd & 4th Tuesday	4th Tuesday
Wraysbury	Scout Hut	2nd & 4th Wednesday	2nd Wednesday

Birth Control Clinics

Slough:

Social Centre, Farnham Road. Wednesday, 2 - 4 p.m.

Health Centre, Burlington Road. Friday, 2.30 - 4 p.m.

High Wycombe:

The Health Centre, The Rye. Weekly, Tuesday 2 p.m.

Tuberculosis

The Chest Clinic has now moved from the Upton Hospital to the Kipling Memorial Building, Alma Road, Windsor.

The Clinic at Upton Hospital will in future be restricted to new patients and some others who may be unable to travel to Windsor.

Venereal Diseases

King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.

Hillingdon Hospital, Hillingdon, Middx.

Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

Registered Nursing Homes

There are a number of registered Nursing Homes in the Eton Rural District. Location and further particulars of these may be obtained from the Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
For the Year 1950

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit herewith my annual report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors.

It is to be regretted that no improvement was noticeable during the year in respect of moveable dwellings and although the Council themselves are fully aware of their own particular problem as evidenced by the survey referred to elsewhere, nevertheless I venture to suggest that concise guidance from higher level is needed to secure co-ordinated appreciation of this aspect of the housing shortage. In addition some further legislation may be necessary as affecting the position between the owners or occupiers of sites and occupiers of moveable dwellings.

The lack of main drainage in many parts of the district continues as an unsatisfactory feature which absorbs considerable time and expense. It really is incredible that in these days of television, super washing machines, etc., which apparatus are to be found in all classes of homes, that the primitive privy, the pail closet, and to some lesser extent, the cesspool, have still to be accepted as "sanitary" accommodation.

As in former years, I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, the Members of the Council, the Clerk, and my associates in the Offices of the Council and of the Area Planning Officer for courteous consideration and assistance readily given.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. G. CORNER,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION VII

Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH, including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupier Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	18	43	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	114	55	4	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	132	98	4	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (I)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp. (4)	By H.M. Insp. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)					
Overcrowding (S.2.)					
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)					
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6.)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	3	2			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	3		3		
TOTAL	6	2	3	—	—

Section VIII

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

Frequent visits were made to the retail dairy premises in the district and no particular action was found necessary as a result thereof.

A considerable amount of milk is delivered by the larger dairyman firms from their premise outside the district and little or no complaint was noted in this respect.

It also appeared that a considerable proportion of milk delivered was heat treated.

Sixty-eight samples of milk, including raw and undesignated milks, were taken from the various dairy premises and submitted to the Public Health Service Laboratory at Reading for examination, with the following results: -

<i>Designation</i>	<i>No. taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Full test not Completed</i>
Pasteurised	41	35	5*
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	24	21	2
Tuberculin Tested	1	1	—
Accredited	—	—	—
Accredited (Farm Bottled)	—	—	—
Non-designated—Heat treated	1	1	—
Raw	1	1	—

* On account of an oversight on the part of the Laboratory, three of the five were not examined at all.

Milk Special Designation Order

Licences for designated milk were granted as follows: -

Pasteuriser's Licence	1
Tuberculin Tested Bottling	1

Dealer's Licence: -

Pasteurised	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Tuberculin Tested	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Sterilised	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
						— 24

Dealer's Supplementary Licence: -

Pasteurised	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Tuberculin Tested	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Sterilised	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
						— 19

Ice Cream

Eight premises are registered under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and 60 premises for the storage and sale of ice cream. The number of such premises has increased since last year.

Other vendors from adjoining areas have also been noted selling from vans, etc., and their vehicles are inspected and registration checked as circumstances permit.

Samples of ice cream gave these results of provisional gradings: -

Grade 1	.....	24	Grade 3	.....	13
Grade 2	.....	21	Grade 4	.....	7
		—			—
		45			20

In addition, two chocolate-coated samples were sent for examination (one strawberry flavour), but the chocolate interfered with the test.

A considerable improvement in Grading is noted from the previous year, the total of Grades 3 and 4 having dropped from 46% last year to 30% this year.

Clean Food

Following the Ministry of Health's circular letter of the 1st June, 1950, relating to the availability of certain films relative to the subject of clean food, all the Women's Institutes in the district (12 in number) were circulated, offering to arrange for the showing to them of these films, together with an address by a member of the Public Health Department.

Arrangements were subsequently made with the local office of the Ministry of Information for several exhibitions early in the new year.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(α) Meat

The inspection of meat at the Government Slaughterhouse at Gerrards Cross was carried out on the same lines as indicated in previous years, but, as the Ministry of Food implemented their promise to close the Slaughterhouse by the 1st September, 1950, the number of visits and of animals inspected is much less than for the previous year.

Following the period of closure, certain meat slaughtered elsewhere outside the district was found not to have been adequately inspected, and representations were made in this respect to the appropriate Ministry and Local Authority.

The following table shows an improvement in certain respects from last year's figures, particularly in relation to the percentage for cows: -

Visits to butchers' shops	183
Total number of visits to slaughterhouse	170
Total number of animals examined	3304

	Cattle ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Animals Slaughtered	707	171	61	2288	77
DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
1. Whole Carcases condemned	Nil	1	Nil	2	8
2. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	236	17	Nil	12	18
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	33.38	10.52	—	0.61	33.76
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
1. Whole Carcases condemned	Nil	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
2. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	133	26	Nil	Nil	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	18.81	18.71	—	—	1.3

Total weight of "Home Killed Meat" and Offal condemned 12,082 lbs.
 Visits to premises re unsound food 161

(b) **Condemned Food**

Meat

- 577 lbs. Home Killed Beef.
- 1133 lbs. Imported Beef.
- 79 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Corned Beef.
- 8 tins Corned Beef.
- 1 tin (61 lbs.) Corned Beef.
- 1 Bovine liver, part of bovine lungs, part of sheep's liver.
- 1 pair of bovine lungs, 2 bovine kidneys (home killed),
also part of bovine udder.
- 48 tins Assorted Meats.
- 63 lbs. Bacon.
- 26 tins of Frankfurter Sausages.
- 1 tin Luncheon Sausage.
- 24 lbs. Pork Sausages.
- 1 tin Pork Sausages.

Fish

- 2 boxes of Herrings (2 stones).
- 1 box of fish.
- 18 tins of fish.

Miscellaneous

- 27 packets Bun and Cake Mixture.
- 1 jar Mincemeat.
- 5 tins of tomatoes.
- 5 cwts. of potatoes.
- 2 stones of sugar.
- 52 tins assorted vegetables.

- 5 tins (large) French Jambon.
- 14 tins Jam.
- 1 tin Molasses.
- 2 loaves of Bread.
- 21 tins of Fruit.
- 4 tins of Orange and Prune Juice.
- 2 tins of Soup.
- 2 bottles Ketchup.
- 21 bottles Pickles.
- 180 Polish eggs.
- 5 dozen eggs.
- 3 lbs. tinned cheese.
- 11½ lbs. Margarine (rancidity returned for processing).
- 80 tins of milk.
- 11 tins of vegetables and fruits.
- 51 tins of assorted meats, milk, vegetables, mushrooms, fish, jam, fruits and baby food.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

The number of licences issued to persons authorising them to slaughter animals was 15 (all renewals).

Section IX

RODENT DESTRUCTION

The work has continued on the same lines as for previous years except that, in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, free service is restricted to private dwelling-houses.

The Rodent Officer-Operator's work is summarised as follows: -

Notification of Infestation	.....	.....	.....	499
Visits	.....	.....	.....	728
Baitings, gassings and trappings	.....	.....	.....	1082
Dead rats found	.....	.....	.....	312
Dead mice found	.....	.....	.....	157

In addition, the following is extracted from the Annual Report already submitted on Form PDR/R.1 for the period 31st March to 31st December, 1950: -

Type and total estimated number of properties: -

Local Authority	.....	.....	.....	20
Dwellinghouses	.....	.....	.....	11525
Business premises	.....	.....	.....	410
Agricultural property	.....	.....	.....	250

Class of infestations: -

Major	.....	.....	.....	.....	118
Minor	.....	.....	.....	.....	298
Mice only	.....	.....	.....	.....	27

Notices served: -

Under Section 4	.....	.....	.....	5
Informal	.....	.....	.....	11
Proceedings under Sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 22	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Special circumstances giving rise to undue presence of rats and mice	.....	.....	.....	None

Nature and extent of co-operation: -

Appropriate contacts have been made with other Local Authority Officers and with the County Agricultural Executive Committee. Also contact with Chairman and Secretary of local branch of National Farmers' Union referring particularly to the Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks Regulations, 1950.

Section X

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The position relating to moveable dwellings in the district did not improve and an ever-increasing influx was noted.

Survey

On the instructions of the Council, a Survey was commenced in September for the express purpose of assessing the problem and to gain information as to numbers and types of moveable dwellings, location, population, workplace of occupiers, reason for living in moveable dwellings and effect on the local housing position.

The Survey was *not* extended to that type oftentimes described, perhaps incorrectly, as gypsies, and for whom, for want of better description, were classed as "nomads" and roughly classified as:-

(A) those who work for local farmers at certain seasons, sometimes moving away from certain well defined and licensed sites to other parts of the country for the agricultural requirements of hop picking, etc., but generally returning again to carry on log, etc., dealing during the winter months. It was estimated that there were 96 such moveable dwellings on 15 sites, but the number varies considerably from time to time, for reasons previously indicated.

(B) those who wander around at all seasons, drawing their caravans on to roadside wastes in the country lanes, common land, etc., and who appear to earn a livelihood by peg making, scrap dealing and the like. In the main, they are illiterate, but often enjoy several surnames. Reference to difficulties experienced with this class are dealt with separately and following the Survey Report.

Anticipating that if the Survey was to be carried out expeditiously it would entail a very considerable amount of time being spent on visits, it was decided that an alternative, e.g., a postal questionnaire, should be used, but it was found to be unsatisfactory, as only 50% of the forms sent out were returned. The co-operation of site owners was therefore sought, and this, supplemented with a considerable number of personal visits, brought in a considerable amount of information, but in sum total it could not be claimed to be 100%, but rather a very fair picture as it existed at the time.

To come to the Survey: -

Out of 513 known moveable dwellings 7 were unoccupied and 15 kept for holiday season, or used in conjunction with a house.

Of 394 occupiers from whom detailed information was obtained the following was noted: -

Population	1,004
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(Average of 2.54 per caravan)

Residents (longstanding)	32
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Residents (shortstanding—mainly since end of war)	362
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Reason for occupation: -

(a) shortage of housing accommodation	290
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(b) preference for the "life"	104
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Application for Council houses.

(a) To Eton Rural District Council	55
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(b) To other Authorities	100
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*(c) No application	239
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* A considerable number stated that they had made no application as they felt their chance of obtaining such accommodation was very poor.

Workplace.

(a) Within the Eton Rural District	74
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(b) Outside the Eton Rural District	320
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1. Slough	99
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2. Windsor, Staines, Egham	35
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3. Maidenhead	17
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4.	Beaconsfield, Marlow, Chalfont	5
5.	Uxbridge, Southall, Ealing, and including London and Northolt Airports	114
6.	London	46
7.	No fixed place	4

Consideration of the Survey Report and of its implications was to be considered early in 1951.

In the preceding Report on the Survey, reference was made under paragraph (B) to difficulties experienced with gypsies (nomads), and this related in particular to camping at Burnham on open land at Littleworth Common and The Gore.

Several complaints were received from nearby residents of the fouling of the land by human excreta, etc., wilful destruction of the trees and vegetation, the extensive damage caused by caravans, motor vehicles and horses churning up the surface of the land, with widespread scattering of considerable quantities of glass, iron and other articles arising from these folk collecting and carrying on trade of rag, paper, iron, etc., collectors. Other activities included dealing in manure which they stored on the Common.

The behaviour of these people also gave rise to complaints regarding horses straying on the highway and being turned into fields, interference with private householders' water supplies and that of the local Water Undertaking's reservoir, together with other practices which were the concern of the police.

From time to time Abatement Notices as provided by the Public Health Act, 1936, were served upon some 14 or more of the occupiers and although some compliance resulted in their removal others took their place. Eight occupiers were summonsed and the Magistrates made Orders and further applications for summonses were pending at the end of the year.

Apart from the Council's own action in endeavouring to maintain public health and preservation of amenities, it has been my opinion for many years that a national policy is required in regard to these types of person and whilst I have noted in the Press and elsewhere the representations made by individuals that permanent or defined camps with facilities should be provided, I can conceive that there would be strong objections to such siting in farming, residential, and other areas of high amenities. Proper continuous education of the children is probably one of the most necessary features if these people are to be weaned from their primitive mode of life, conflicting as it does with present-day standards.

	Sites		Individual Caravans	
	New	Renewals	New	Renewals
Applications made	Nil (2)	15 (13)	13 (31)	51 (61)
Granted	Nil (1)	15 (13)	10 (23)	51 (61)
Refused	Nil (1)	Nil (—)	3 (8)	Nil (—)

The corresponding figures for the year 1949 are shown in brackets.

Section XI

HOUSING

Details of progress with housing, new and otherwise, are given below.

The special Sub-Committee of the Housing Committee set up the previous year continued to visit from time to time and as necessary any newly reported unfit houses prior to consideration for formal action.

New Houses

The following houses or separate units of accommodation were erected during the year : -

(1) By the Council	142
(2) By Private Enterprise	54

Formal Action under Housing Acts

(a) INDIVIDUAL houses which were considered as being incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense and beyond further temporary repair were dealt with as follows : -

Demolition Order made	5
Undertakings accepted in respect of	3
Closing Order made	—
Premises demolished where Undertakings previously given	3
Premises demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order	6
Premises demolished (informal action)	2

(b) CLEARANCE AREAS. No houses which were included in Clearance Areas confirmed prior to the outbreak of war in 1939 were demolished during the year. Some 25 houses in this category were still standing at the end of the year, but of these several were unoccupied.

Formal Notices

Housing Act (Section 9)	Nil
Public Health Acts	70

Section XII

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Housing (including Public Health)	1201
Drainage	676
Nuisances (refuse deposits, animals, dust and smoke)	560
Infectious diseases, enquiries and disinfections	86
Infestations (insect)	57
Moveable Dwellings (including sites)	645
Refuse Tips	65
Water Supplies	234
Factories	98
Work Places	37
Shops, Cafes, etc. (food premises)	309
Dairies	61
Ice Cream	107
Slaughterhouses	170
Knackers' Yards	6
Schools	9
Food Poisoning enquiries	9